Decrease in use of pesticides

†2408. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in cultivation of biotech crops the dependence on the use of pesticides has come down;

(b) whether it has benefited the cultivators of BT cotton a lot; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The increase in cultivation of Bt. Cotton hybrids has resulted in reduction of pesticidal sprays for the control of bollworms due to which farmers have had to incur lower expenditure on pesticides. The cultivation of Bt. Cotton has also resulted in lower crop losses which has led to increase in crop yields to the benefit of the farmers.

Small and marginal farmers

†2409. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase or decrease in the number of marginal farmers and small farmers as per the census of 1990-91 and 2000-01;

(b) the areas of land being cultivated by them as per the latest census, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have initiated steps to enhance income of marginal and small farmers by attracting them towards the occupation of dairy, fishery and poultry farming from the cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) the data for the Agricultural Census 2000-01 is not available at the All India level. The increase in the number of marginal holdings in 1995-96 as compared to 1990-91 was 12.2%. In respect of small holdings the same was 7.7%.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.